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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Two New Distribution Records of *Asaccus gallagheri* (Arnold, 1977) (Squamata: Gekkonidae) in the Fujairah Emirate, UAE and the Musandam Governorate, Oman

Todd Pierson

University of Georgia, 150 East Green Street. 30602. Athens, GA, USA.
E-mail: *twpierso@uga.edu*

ABSTRACT: I report two new distribution records of *Asaccus gallagheri* (Arnold, 1977) from the Fujairah Emirate, UAE and the Musandam Governorate, Oman. This species has previously been demonstrated to hold much genetic diversity, and it is likely to be composed of several cryptic species. Thus, the documentation of its distribution and expansion of its known range are of interest.

Asaccus gallagheri (Arnold, 1977) is a small climbing gecko know from the Ras al-Khaimah and Fujairah Emirates of the United Arab Emirates and the Musandam, Ad Dakhiliyah, and Ash Sharqiyah North Governorates of Oman (Arnold 1977; Gardner 2013). Sequence divergence is very high (14% for ND2) between these two disjunct populations of *A. gallagheri*, and the population near Nizwa may belong to a new species (Papenfuss *et al.* 2010).

I report, to the best of my knowledge, the first vouchered specimens of *Asaccus gallagheri* from the Fujairah Emirate of the United Arab Emirates. Arnold (1977) reported *A. gallagheri* from "Wadi Adimah" with no precise locality information, but the wadi lies mostly in Ras al-Khaimah. Gardner (2013) reports several records for *A. gallagheri* in the Fujairah Emirate of the UAE and the Musandam Governorate of Oman, but they are not associated with museum-vouchered specimens. On a nocturnal visit to the recently designated Wadi Wurayah Protected Area [Elev. 245 m, 9.0 km E (airline) from Zubara, UAE, 25.3870° N, 56.2649° E] on June 12, 2011, two adult *Asaccus gallagheri* were encountered crawling on small boulders. Both were collected, and tissues and specimens were deposited in California Academy of Sciences as CAS 250909 and CAS 250910.

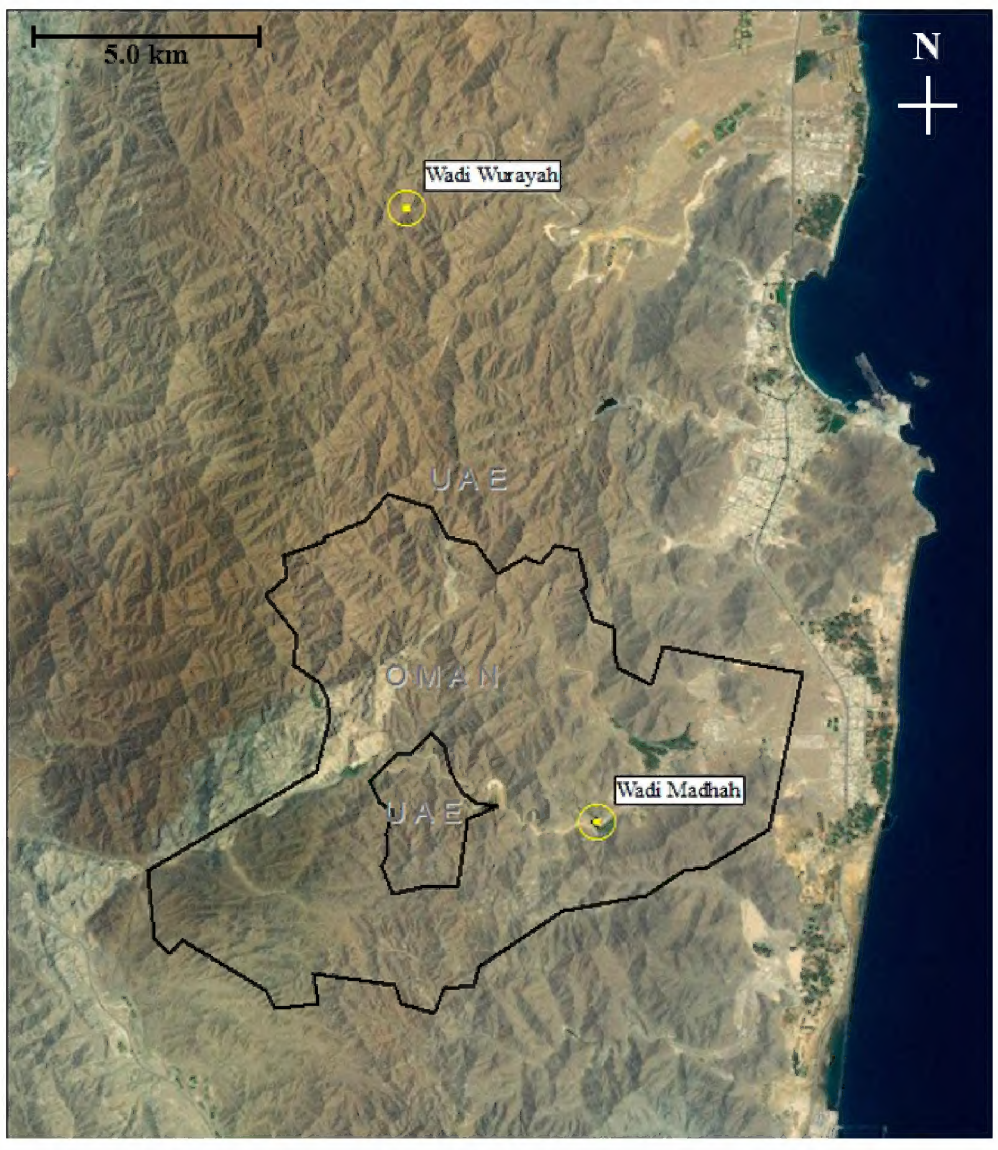

FIGURE 1. Map showing new distribution records of *Asaccus gallagheri*.

Additionally, two *Asaccus gallagheri* (Figure 2) were collected near Wadha Madhah (Elev. 145 m, Musandam Governorate, Oman, 25.2651° N, 56.3068° E) during a nocturnal search on June 11, 2011. They were deposited at the California Academy of Sciences as specimens CAS 250893 and CAS 250895. While *A. gallagheri* has previously been collected in the Musandam Governorate, these records are from a disjunct portion of the governorate near Fujairah, UAE and represent new geographic records (Figure 1).

While further genetic analysis may reveal that *Asaccus gallagheri* consists of two or more species, both of these records are near the type locality of Masafi, UAE and most likely represent true *A. gallagheri*.

FIGURE 2. Adult male *Asaccus gallagheri* from Wadi Madhah. Photograph by Todd Pierson.

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